The Junior King's School Canterbury

2012

Year 6
Entrance Examination (11+)
English

One Hour

Section A	**Reading**	**25 Marks**	**30 Minutes**
Section B	**Writing**	**25 marks**	**30 Minutes**

PLEASE BE SURE TO ANSWER SECTIONS A & B ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF PAPER

MOONDIAL

Helen Cresswell's "Moondial" was first published in 1987. It is a timeslip story which tells of the mysterious adventures of Minty Cane when she is staying with her Aunt in the village of Belton in Lincolnshire. In this extract the reader is introduced to Belton House for the first time...

Prologue

It is midnight in that most dark and secret place. If you should chance - and why should you? - to be walking there, you would be blindfolded by the night. You would hear the **hooting** of a lone owl from the church tower, the scuff of your own steps on the gravel. You would smell the ancient, musty scent of the yews that line the path, and the curious cold green odour of dew on grass. You put out a hand. It gropes to find the ungiving touch of stone. The shock of it brings an uprush of fear so strong you can almost taste it.

At that moment your fifth sense is restored. A slow silver light yawns over the garden. Shapes make themselves, statues loom. Ahead, the glass of the **orangery** gleams like water. You notice the shadow the moon has made at your feet as you would never notice a mere daytime shadow.

You stand motionless, with all five senses sharp, alert as a fox.

But if by some chance you should possess another, a sixth sense, what then? First a tingle of the spine, a sudden chill, a shudder. You are standing at a crossroads, looking up at a statue. A huge stone man seems locked in struggle with another, smaller figure, that of a boy. But the presence you feel is all about you now, and with a lifting of the hairs at the back of your neck you are certain, *certain* that you are being watched.

You turn **slowly**, half dreading what you might see. But the path before you is empty. Your gaze moves to the great, moonwashed face of the house itself. The windows are blank and shuttered, though that strange sixth sense is insisting on hints, whispers, secrets.

The scene fades and you realize that the moon is going back **behind** the clouds, and then you run. As you run through the disappearing garden you feel that a mighty wind is blowing and voices are clamouring in that empty place.

What you also hear, and what you will remember ever afterwards with a shudder, even in the full light of day, is the lonely sobbing of a child.

GLOSSARY: *orangery* : a building, such as a greenhouse, in which orange trees are grown.



Section A **Reading Comprehension** **30 minutes**

Read the passage from "Moondial" twice and then answer the questions below. Remember to write full sentences except for questions 1 and 3.

1. Copy the word or words which are the best answer to the question.

   a) The story begins in the middle of the
   morning afternoon night

   b) The prologue is written in the
   first person second person third person

   c) The huge stone figure is
   a statue a monster a ghost **[3]**

2. What is the "fifth sense" that the writer refers to in the second paragraph? **[2]**

3. Give the part of speech of each word underlined in the passage Set it out in a table as below:

WORD	***PART OF SPEECH***
hooting	
orangery	
slowly	
behind	

   [2]

4. "You would be blindfolded by the night." What do you think the writer means by this? **[2]**

5. In line 17, why do you think the word "certain" is written twice, the second time in italic writing? **[3]**

6. Good descriptive writing often appeals to a range of the senses. Give an example of a detail that Helen Cresswell provides for each sense. **[6]**

7. What is the effect of the writer's constant use of "you" in this passage? Rewrite the last two paragraphs in the past tense and as if they were happening to you. Begin, "The scene faded and I realized that..." **[7]**

[25 marks]

When you have finished, check your work and then go straight on to the writing section.

Section B **Creative Writing** **30 minutes**

The purpose of the prologue of "Moondial" is to create a setting where fascinating and sinister events will take place.

Your task is to write a similar piece entitled,

PROLOGUE

You should aim to write your own introduction to a story describing a location where the atmosphere is either of utter luxury and perfection or of complete poverty and desolation.

REMEMBER

You will be marked on the quality and accuracy of your writing as well as your ideas so take great care with your vocabulary, use of language, punctuation and spelling.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- **You could write as "you" as in the passage, "I" as in question 7 or even as "he" or "she"...**
- **Try to make sure that your writing appeals to a range of senses – as in the passage**
- **There can be a sense of movement, as in the extract, but DO NOT include any dramatic events or action. This is only the beginning of a story, not the whole story. We are interested in your ability to describe in detail and develop atmosphere**
- **You could finish with just one significant event which would lead on to the rest of the story**
- **Aim to write at least one side**

[25 marks]